(v) Issuing of any commission for the examination of any witness; and

(vi) any other matter which may be prescribed.

Exploitation by traders in weight and measures of LPG cylinders, kerosene etc.

@1461. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers are being exploited in weight and measures of essential commodities including *LPG cylinders, kerosene* etc.;

(b) what steps Government are taking to protect consumers from the exploitation by the dishonest traders; and

(c) how many traders have been punished for exploiting consumers in weight and measures etc. during last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Procedure has been laid down to ensure correctness of weight of LPG cylinders at the bottling plants. The distributors are also under instructions to check the seal and weight of the cylinders at their godowns prior to delivering the same to customers. As and when specific complaints|about sale of under-weight cylinders are received. LPG marketing companies take appropriate action against dealers under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. The State Governments also take action through their Weights and Measures Departments against irregularities and violation of the provisions of law, in the sale and distribution of kerosene oil and LPG.

(c) Information is being collected from the States|UTs who are responsible for enforcement, and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Coverage of PDS

1462. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2306 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1993 and state :

(a) what is the total number of persons covered under the PDS in the country; and

(b) what are the salient features of new Public Distribution System and how does it differ from the old one ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) As per the present policy of the Central Government, the Public Distribution System (PDS) is universal and the operational responsibility for implementing the PDS rests with the State Governments|UT Administrations. Decisions regarding issue of ration cards to consumers, eligibility criteria, laying down procedures and regulatory measures thereto are taken by the State Governments|UT Administrations. Central Government has advised the States|UTs to make efforts to issue ration cards to all bonafide resident householders both in rural and urban areas. While the PDS in the country is by and large functioning satisfactorily, the Central Government after discussion with the States|UTs took the initiative to revamp the PDS for improving the reach of the PDS to

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1203, transferred from the 5th May, 1993.

far-flung, remote, hilly, inaccessible and tribal areas, inhabited by substantial number of poor people. The State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to implement it and under the RPDS, they were requested to open additional fair price shops in places unserved or underserved, issue ration cards to population left uncovered, create or hire storage space for stocking of foodgrains in the interior areas, making arrangements for doorstep delivery of PDS items to the fair price shops, set up Advisory/Vigilance Committees at the FPS level to prevent diversion and monitor supply and distribution of commodities etc. The thrust of RPDS is to improve the reach of the PDS in desert, drought prone, hilly and tribal areas.

Cases registered under Essential Commodities Act

1463. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Wil the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of raids conducted till 30th April, 1993 by States/Union Territories against hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers during the year 1992-93 under the Essential Commodities Act; and

(b) the total number of persons prosecuted thereunder indicating the number of those who were arrested and the price of goods confiscated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) During the period 1-1-92 to 31-3-93 State Governments/U.T. Administrations have reported that the following action has been taken by them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :

(i) No. of raids made	149096
(ii) No. of persons arrested	5610
(iii) No. of persons prosecuted	6573
(iv) Value of goods confiscated	Rs. 2211.51 lakhs.

Discriminatory Policy of CIL

1464. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations dated the 22nd and 24th March, 1993 have been received from Coal Mines Officers Association of India, NCL Branch, P. O. Sangrauli, Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh by CIL;

(b) whether the said association has pointed out discriminatory executive policy of the CIL Board adopted on the 22nd December, 1992;

(c) if so, what are their objections to the said policy; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to resolve the differences with the officers on this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) :

(a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

औद्योगिक इकाइयों द्वारा कोयले का आयात

1465. **अजीत जोगी :**
श्री छोटू भाई पटेल :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंडल संघ ने सरकार से कोयले की निरंतर कमी को दूर करने के लिए औद्योगिक ईकाइयों को कोयले का निःशुल्क आयात करने की अनुमति देने का अनुरोध किया है ;